

CATHOLIC CHURCH PLANNED IN BRONX

New \$600,000 Structure Will Be Built to Serve Tenants of Parkchester Colony

DESIGN CALLED 'UNIQUE'

One Unit Will Contain Also a School, Rectory and Convent —Mgr. Scanlon to Be Pastor

Plans for a new \$600,000 Catholic church and parochial school at the southwest corner of Olmstead and Benedict Avenues, in the Parkchester section of the Bronx, were announced yesterday by Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York. It will be known as the Church of St. Helena.

Organization of the new church has been made necessary by the thousands of tenants moving into the Parkchester development of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which eventually will accommodate more than 12,000 families. The first units of the \$50,000,000 housing project, which occupies the old Catholic Protectory site, already have been opened.

Appointment of Mgr. Arthur J. Scanlan, president since 1931 of St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, N. Y., as the first pastor of the new parish of St. Helena was announced by Archbishop Spellman. Mgr. Scanlan also was appointed to the Board of Diocesan Consultors. He was ordained as a priest in 1907 and was for many years Professor of Psychology at St. Joseph's before becoming president.

Ground for the new church edifice will be broken during the Summer. The site borders the new apartment colony. Eggers & Higgins are the architects for the church.

The announcement said the plan was "believed to be unique in modern sacred architecture in that one building will contain the church itself, a school with sixteen classrooms, a rectory and a convent, but with each part serving as a separate and self-contained unit."

The design will show early Italian Renaissance influence. The exterior will be of brick with limestone trim. The church and school will face east with a frontage of 146 feet on Olmstead Avenue, while the north side of the church and the convent will occupy a frontage of 170 feet on Benedict Avenue. The nave will seat 100 persons and the balcony will accommodate 177 more. The auditorium under the nave will seat 900.

Clinic rooms for first-aid emergencies and for physical examinations will be located in the basement of the church. The school will provide classroom facilities for 600 pupils in addition to offices and conference rooms. In the basement of the school section will be a library, reading room and lunch-rooms.

The rectory will occupy a corner with an entrance on Benedict Avenue. Offices and reception rooms will be provided on the first two floors, and quarters for the pastor and an assistant, with a dining room and kitchen, will be on the third and fourth floors.

The convent will be at the northwest corner of the building, with an entrance on Benedict Avenue, and will provide living quarters for twenty-three nuns.